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Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04836 082222Z

64
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAB-01 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SY-04

AID-05 ACDA-05 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 SR-02 ORM-01

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R 082013Z NOV 74
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7213

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN PFOR XF
SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN AMB SCALI AND AMERICAN-ARAB FEDERATION LEADERS

REF: USUN 4706

1. DR MOHAMED MEHDI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FEDERATION OF AMERICAN-ARAB ORGANIZATIONS, CALLED WITH FOUR OTHERS ON AMB SCALI NOV 7 TO EXPRESS ARAB POINT OF VIEW IN LIGHT OF FORTH-COMING UN DEBATE ON PALESTINE. MEETING BEGAN WITH ONE MEMBER READING LETTER REGARDING US MIDDLE EAST POSITION, TEXT OF WHICH CARRIED PARA 3. MEHDI SAID HE PLANNED RELEASE LETTER AT PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD DIRECTLY AFTER DISCUSSION WITH SCALI.

2. AFTER LETTER WAS READ, OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE CONCERNING SOME OF GROUP'S CONCERNS ABOUT US POLICY. AT END OF MEETING MEHDI WAS ASKED WHETHER FEDERATION HAD ANY PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATION DURING PALESTINE DEBATE. HE REPLIED THAT CURRENT PLAN WAS TO HOLD PRO-PLO DEMONSTRATION NOV 13 IN VICINITY
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PAGE 02 USUN N 04836 082222Z

OF UN, WHICH HE ESTIMATED WOULD ATTRACT "500 TO "1000" ARAB-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

AMERICANS FROM ALL OVER COUNTRY. AMB SCALI SAID HE
EARNESTLY HOPED THAT MEHDI AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD NOT
GO AHEAD WITH DEMONSTRATION. IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE IT WOULD
BE A MAGNET FOR VIOLENCE. THIS WOULD BE WORST POSSIBLE
BEGINNING FOR MODERATE, CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE WHICH ARAB-
AMERICANS SAID THEY DESIRED. MOREOVER, SECURITY FORCES IN
NEW YORK WOULD BE OVEREXTENDED DURING THIS PERIOD,AND
DIVERSION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE TO PROTECT ARAB-AMERICAN
DEMONSTRATION WOULD MEAN LESSENED SEUCURITY FOR PLO DELEGATION
AND ARAB HEADS OF STATE. MEHDI AGREED TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY
CANCELLING DEMONSTRATION.

3. B'NAI B'RITH REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONED POLCOUNS TO PROTEST
USUN'S RECEIVING MEHDI. HE REFERRED TO NY TIMES REPORT WHICH
REPORTED IN PARALLEL THE VISITS OF DR. MEHDI AND OF COUNSEL OF
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS' PRESIDENT MILLER. POLCOUNS REPLIED
THAT USUN LISTENED TO ALL SHADES OF AMERICAN OPINION AND HAD
NO INTENTION OF EQUATING MEHDI AND MILLER RO THEIR RESPECTIVE
ORGANIZATIONS.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMERICAN-ARAB FEDERATION LETTER:

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH
YOU IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLEAST AND BETTER
AMERICAN-ARAB RELATIONS.

THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN-ARAB ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTS
MORE THAN ONE MILLION ARAB AMERICANS AND MANY MILLIONS OF
AMERICAN ARABISTS.WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE
OF PALESTINE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, TO THEIR LAND OF PALESTINE.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE US.CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
REPRESENTING THE ESTABLISHED CHURCHES OF THE MAJORITY OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ALSO RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE
PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, 106 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
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HAVE RECOGNIZED THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
AND THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO THEIR LAND. INDEED THERE ARE
MORE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE RECOGNIZED THE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION THAN THERE ARE THOSE WITH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL*
MR. AMBASSADOR. THERE COULD BE NO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND THEIR
RIGHT TO PALESTINE.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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THE ISSUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT SINAI NOR THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS. THE ISSUE IS PALESTINE. AND THE SOONER WE
RECOGNIZE THIS SIMPLE FACT, THE CLOSER WE SHALL BE TO
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

MR. AMBASSADOR. WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST THAT DR. KISSINGER
HAS SPENT MUCH OF HIS VALUABLE TIME DEALING WITH THE
EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, JORDANIAN AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS. HE
SHOULD MEET AND DEAL WITH MR. YSSIR ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE

LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. THE RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AND THE
RIGHT OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

FOR THESE REASONS WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO CONSIDER
THE FOLLOWING:

1. TO CHANGE THE UNITED STATES VOTE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND VOTE WITH THE MAJORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,
RECOGNIZING THE PLO AND THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT.
2. TO URGE ISRAEL TO STOP USING AMERICAN WEAPONS, TANKS
AND AIRPLANES, ATTACKING, BOMBING AND DESTROYING SOUTHERN
LEBANON.
3. TO STOP ALL AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO ALL THE MIDDLE EASTERN
COUNTRIES, ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES.
4. TO STOP AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL.
5. TO OPEN THE GATES OF THE UNITED STATES AND URGE THE
ENCOURAGE CANADA, LATIN AMERICA, WESTERN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA
TO OPEN THEIR DOORS SO THAT THE RUSSIAN JEWS COULD COME TO
THESE LANDS AND NOT BE FORCED TO GO TO ISRAEL. THE 60,000
RUSSIAN JEWS EXPECTED TO GO TO ISRAEL YEARLY WILL INCREASE
POPULATION PRESSURE ON LAND AND THEREBY INCREASE THE
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THREAT TO PEACE. THE UNSCRUPUPLOUS POLITICIANS WHO FORCED THE
STATE DEPARTMENT TO PRESSURE THE
SOVIET UNION TO PERMIT ITS JEWISH CITIZENS TO TO ISRAEL WERE
CONCERNED WITH JEWISH ZIONIST VOTE HERE, RATHER THAN THE WELFARE
OF THE JEWS THERE. OUR PROPOSAL IS IN THE INTEREST OF
THE INDIVIDUAL HUMAN JEW AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
6. TO PROMPTLY RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINE GOVERNMENT-IN-
EXILE AS SOON AS IT IS PROCLAIMED.

MR. AMBASSADOR. THE ROAD TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS VIA
WASHINGTON, D.C., NOT GENEVA OR OTHER CAPITALS. WHEN
THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT AND STOPS
ITS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO THE JEWISH STATE, ISRAEL
WILL RECOGNIZE THAT IF SHE WANTS TO LIVE IN PALESTINE SHE
MUST RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINE PEOPLE AND MAKE PEACE WITH THEM.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ISRAELI JEWS AND PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS WILL BE THE CORNERSTONE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRATIC SECULAR STATE IN PALESTINE, WHICH IS THE GOAL OF PLO, SHOULD RECEIVE THE FULL AMERICAN SUPPORT AND SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARABS, TEXT, LIBERATION FRONTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN04836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0929
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741157/aaaabwhd.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 4706
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <01 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING BETWEEN AMB SCALI AND AMERICAN-ARAB FEDERATION LEADERS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, UN, (SCALI, JOHN), (MEHDI, MOHAMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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